



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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**TO:** All Child Care Agencies Providing Transportation  
**FROM:** Lois Barrett-Luke, Director of Licensing  
**DATE:** August 22, 2007  
**SUBJECT:** SUMMER TRANSPORTATION HAZARD ALERT/EMERGENCY

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I am writing to remind you that Tennessee's current heat wave can be extremely dangerous to our children. As current temperatures continue to stay in the mid-90's and well into the 100's in some areas, there is a great increase in risk to children during transportation and during outside play. Sunburn and dehydration are the most common risks - *but with temperatures inside a closed vehicle during typical summer weather rising to over a 107° within minutes there is also a very high danger of heatstroke, brain damage and death.*

Please remember that your Licensing Evaluator checks transportation at every visit, even though the school year has begun. We will be looking at more than whether the transportation logs have been properly completed – we will also be looking at your agency's policies, procedures, and the written plan you are using to supervise your staff and ensure that they are properly following the rules. Again, the Department's licensing staff will be observing how you run your transportation operation at every announced and unannounced visit.

Also remember that our rules require the inside temperature of your agency be between 68 and 78 degrees by means of heating, cooling or ventilation sources approved for use. If these conditions are not maintained, you will not be allowed to operate. Outside play must be limited during the extreme heat. During periods of extremely high heat indices and air quality alerts, outdoor play can pose multiple health risks. These risks are compounded for very young children and those with health issues.

Also please remember that *any* violation of a transportation regulation is a "major" violation that can subject your agency to major civil penalties, or even the suspension, denial or revocation of your license. We are asking that, if you transport young children and your vehicle is not equipped with air conditioning, that you voluntarily suspend transportation service until temperatures drop below the triple digits.

Children are at extreme risk during hot weather! Let us work together to prevent any tragedies this year by making sure that all staff are being diligent every single day. If you need any assistance with transportation training or any of the transportation rules please do not hesitate to contact your Licensing Evaluator or Supervisor.